

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05397 290543Z

ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5397

LIMDIS

EO 11652: : GDS

TAGS: UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: 32ND UNGA CORE GROUP MEETING

REF: USUN 1999

SUMMARY: MOFA GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH JUNE 16 CORE GROUP
OUTCOME. SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT RELIANCE ON 1976 DRAFT
RESOLUTION AND MEMORANDUM WOULD BE INADEQUATE IF NORTH
KOREANS SUBMIT RESOLUTION. ROKG IMPOSED NEWS EMBARGO ON
STORIES RELATED TO KOREAN QUESTION AT UNGA EXPIRES JULY1.
END SUMMARY

1. EMBOFF REVIEWED JUNE 16 CORE GROUP MEETING WITH MOFA UN
DIVISION CHIEF YI CHONG-PIN JUNE 27. YI SAID HE WAS IN
GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH OUTCOME OF CORE GROUP MEETING BUT
SAID HE WAS SOMEWHAT UNEASY AT CASUAL CORE GROUP ASSUMPTION
THAT 1976 DRAFT RESOLUTION AND MEMORANDUM COULD FORM BASIS
FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS SHOULD ONE BE
NECESSARY AT SHORT NOTICE. YI SAID SOME MODIFICATION TO
1976 RESOLUTION, AGENDA ITEM AND MEMORANDUM WOULD CERTAINLY
BE NECESSARY. HE INDICATED ROKG WOULD BE TINKERING WITH
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1976 LANGUAGE TO SEE WHAT MINIMUM CHANGES MIGHT BE NECESSARY
SHOULD CORE GROUP NEED TO PRODUCE A RESOLUTION ON SHORT
NOTICE. HE INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A VERY
CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH EMBOFF ON THIS SUBJECT
AT A LATER DATE.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION SAME DAY WITH EMBOFF, INTER-

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU DIRECTOR CHONG U-YONG APPEARED LESS CONCERNED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM AND INDICATED SOMETIME IN MID-JULY MIGHT BE SOON ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH THIS TOPIC SHOULD IT EVEN BE NECESSARY.

3. YI ALSO SAID THAT ROKG HAD CLAMPED STRICT EMBARGO ON MANY ROKG PRESS STORIES ABOUT UN DEBATE ON KOREA DURING MONTHS OF MAY AND JUNE. HE SAID THIS HAD ACCOUNTED FOR COMPLETE ABSENCE OF ANY NEWS ABOUT UNGA IN ROKG PRESS TO DATE. HE WAS QUITE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT ON JULY 1 ROK PRESS WOULD FEEL THAT IT WAS RELEASED FROM THESE MOFA-IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS AND FLOOD OF SPECULATIVE STORIES ABOUT UN MIGHT BEGIN. YI SAID RESUMPTION OF PRESS TREATMENT OF THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT HEADACHE FOR ROKG AND HE WAS BUSILY CONTEMPLATING COUNTERMEASURES. YI SAID MOST APPEALING APPROACH WAS EXTENSION OF EMBARGO. EMBOFF ENCOURAGED MOFA EFFORTS TO CONTINUE LOW KEY PRESS APPROACH.
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